

the bonds which have united us. This, in any case, is my fervent hope, and this is my resolute objective.

Certainly with the completion of the magnificent bridge and tunnel, connecting the southern tip of this peninsula with the Virginia mainland, we are confronted with the necessity of planning—with the need to look into the future and appraise as best we can the economic and social impact that may be expected.

There is more, however, to which we must direct our best talents and our strongest energies. I am speaking about more than just the direction of the flow of traffic through our three states on the peninsula. Because I hope that each of you will take the time to look at the overall prospects—to anticipate what we need to do in a number of areas of endeavor to provide a constructive, progressive and healthy economic future for the people of Delmarva.

Let us concern ourselves with the creation of the kind of economic climate that will assure maximum opportunities for our young people, so that they will not be forced into voluntary exile when they go out to earn a livelihood.

Let us make provision also for the preservation of the natural beauty of this lovely land, and by so doing insure its continuing reputation as one of the truly great areas of our Atlantic seaboard.

We would all agree, I think, that the construction of the bridge and tunnel will have a drastic effect upon the growth of this area—upon the commerce and the agriculture on the peninsula. But perhaps we should consider this “eighth wonder of the world,” as it already has been called, as a symptom and indicator of the inevitable progress to come. We must exercise both foresight and cooperation to make certain that we achieve the maximum benefit to the people of the Eastern Shore from the increased traffic and activity that may be expected to result from the bridge-tunnel. If we define progress as a process of improving our ways of doing things, then we are on this day actually talking about changing the perspectives and the lives of many thousands of people for the better. We are talking about changing the way the people of this region have lived for 300 years. Just as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge has had a continuing and constructive impact by creating unbelievable assets to the Eastern Shore, so will this bold new project which links Delmarva with the mainland of Virginia.

There are any number of symbols and indications of the progress the Eastern Shore is making. One was the announcement made last